

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**COURT OF APPEALS**

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In the Matter of W.D.A., Minor.

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FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

WENDELL ALDRIDGE, SR.,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

VANISSHA WALKER,

Respondent.

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In the Matter of T.L.B., T.T.B., and W.D.A.,  
Minors.

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FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

VANISSHA WALKER,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

WENDELL ALDRIDGE, SR.,

Respondent.

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UNPUBLISHED

March 13, 2003

No. 240631

Ingham Circuit Court

Family Division

LC No. 97-031026-NA

No. 241269

Ingham Circuit Court

Family Division

LC No. 97-031026-NA

Before: Donofrio, P.J., and Saad and O'Connell, JJ.

## MEMORANDUM.

In these consolidated appeals, respondents appeal as of right from the trial court's order which terminated their parental rights to their respective minor children pursuant to MCL 712A.19b(3)(b) and (g). We affirm.

The trial court did not clearly err in finding that the statutory grounds for termination were established by clear and convincing evidence. MCR 5.947(I); *In re Miller*, 433 Mich 331, 337; 445 NW2d 161 (1989). The record is clear that respondent-father has virtually neglected his child prior to and since his incarceration. Moreover, there is no reasonable likelihood that respondent-father will be released from prison in the near future. Further, the record is also clear that respondent-father will not be able to provide for his child's proper care and custody because of the child's age and the father's incarceration.

Ample evidence at trial revealed that respondent-mother continued to discipline her children by whipping them with a belt, among other things, and by locking them in the basement for extended periods of time. This physical abuse was corroborated by medical testimony regarding the nature and extent of resulting marks and scars on the children's bodies. The court was presented with competent expert testimony about the extent of physical and psychological injury caused by respondent-mother's methods of discipline. The court was also presented with substantial testimony that because of the mother's poor attitude toward her children, further counseling would not likely produce any positive change in her parenting style.

Further, overwhelming evidence shows that the termination of the parental rights of both parents is clearly in the children's best interests and certainly not detrimental to the children. MCL 712A.19b(5); *In re Trejo*, 462 Mich 341, 356-357; 612 NW2d 407 (2000). Therefore, the trial court did not err in terminating respondents' parental rights to their respective children.

Affirmed.

/s/ Pat M. Donofrio  
/s/ Henry William Saad  
/s/ Donald S. Owens